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Takahashi et al.

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(54) **WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING ESTIMATED DIRECTION AND POSITION OF A TARGET FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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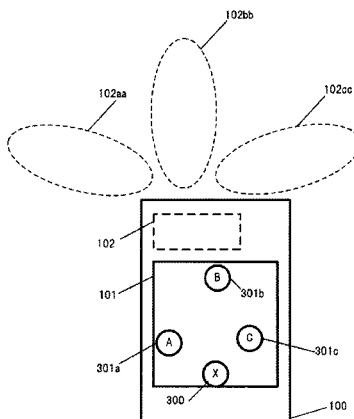
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H04B 7/0617 (2013.01); **H04B 7/0695**
(2013.01); **H04W 16/28** (2013.01)

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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A wireless communication device transmits and receives a signal by a wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band. The wireless communication device includes an antenna section having directivities in a plurality of different directions, an antenna control section adapted to form a directivity in a prescribed direction among the plurality of directivities of the antenna section, a direction and position estimation section adapted to estimate direction and position information of a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for the wireless communication, in accordance with a receiving signal received by the antenna section having the directivity formed, and a display section adapted to display the estimated direction and position information of the wireless communication device to be communicated with.

10 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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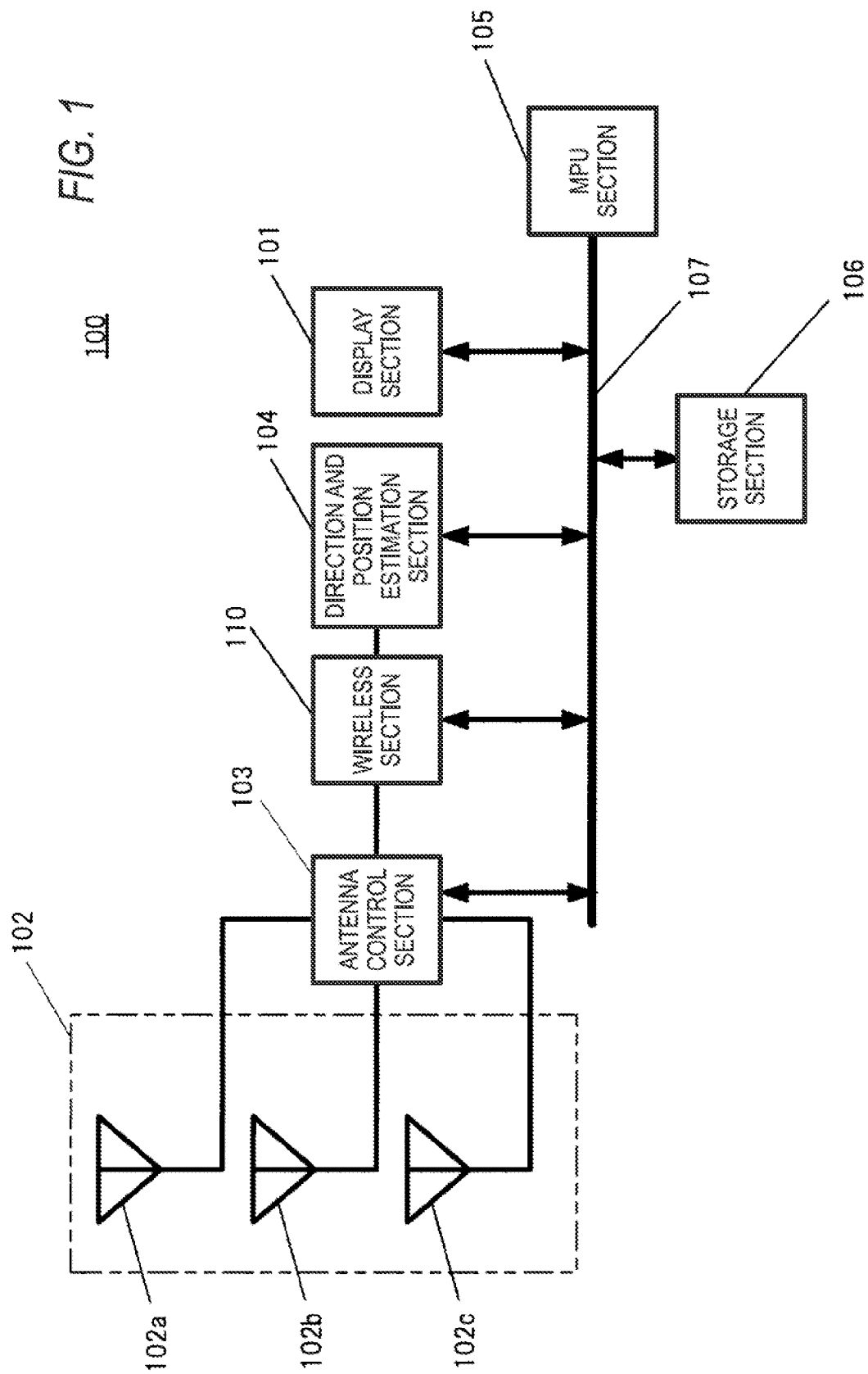
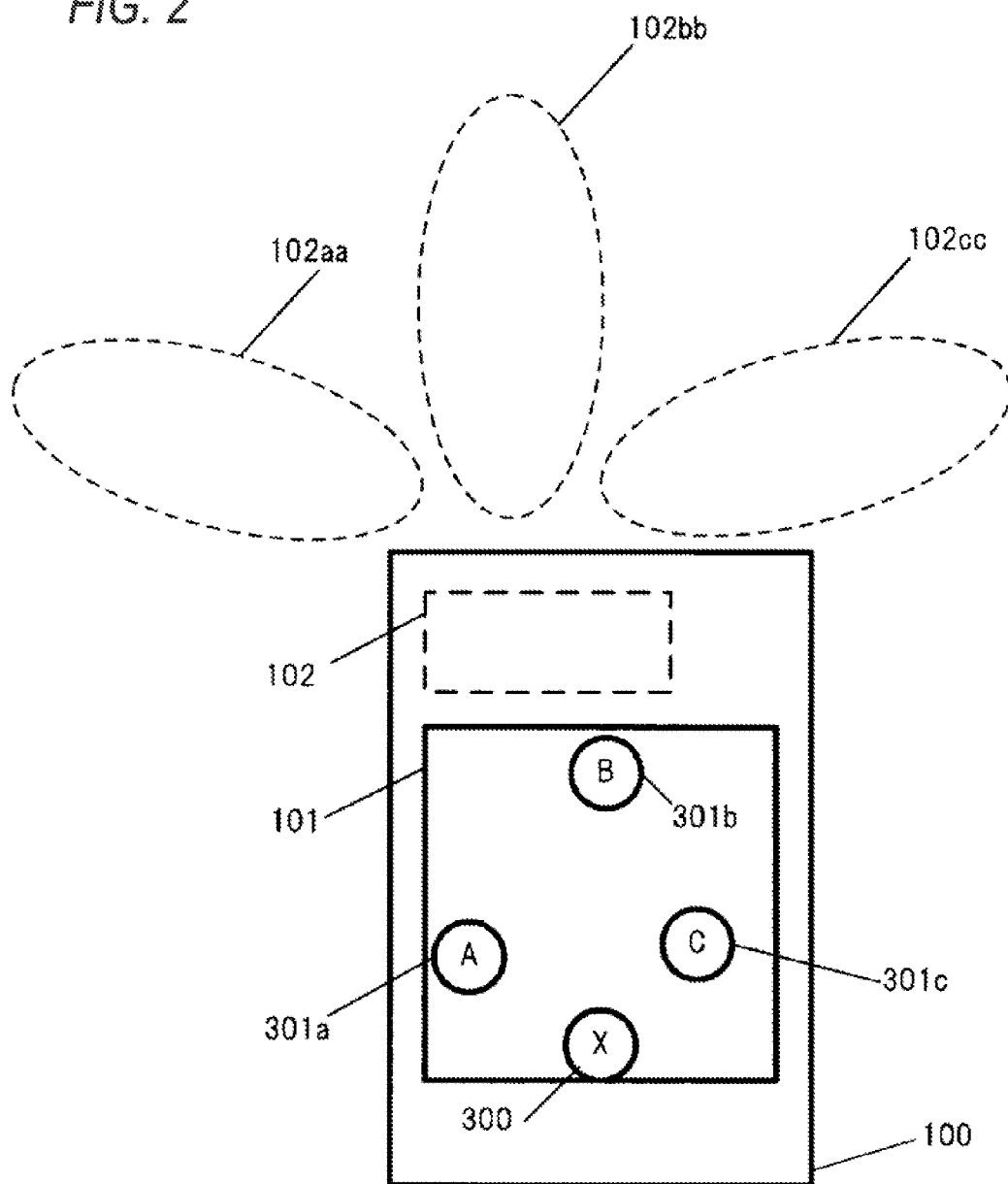


FIG. 2



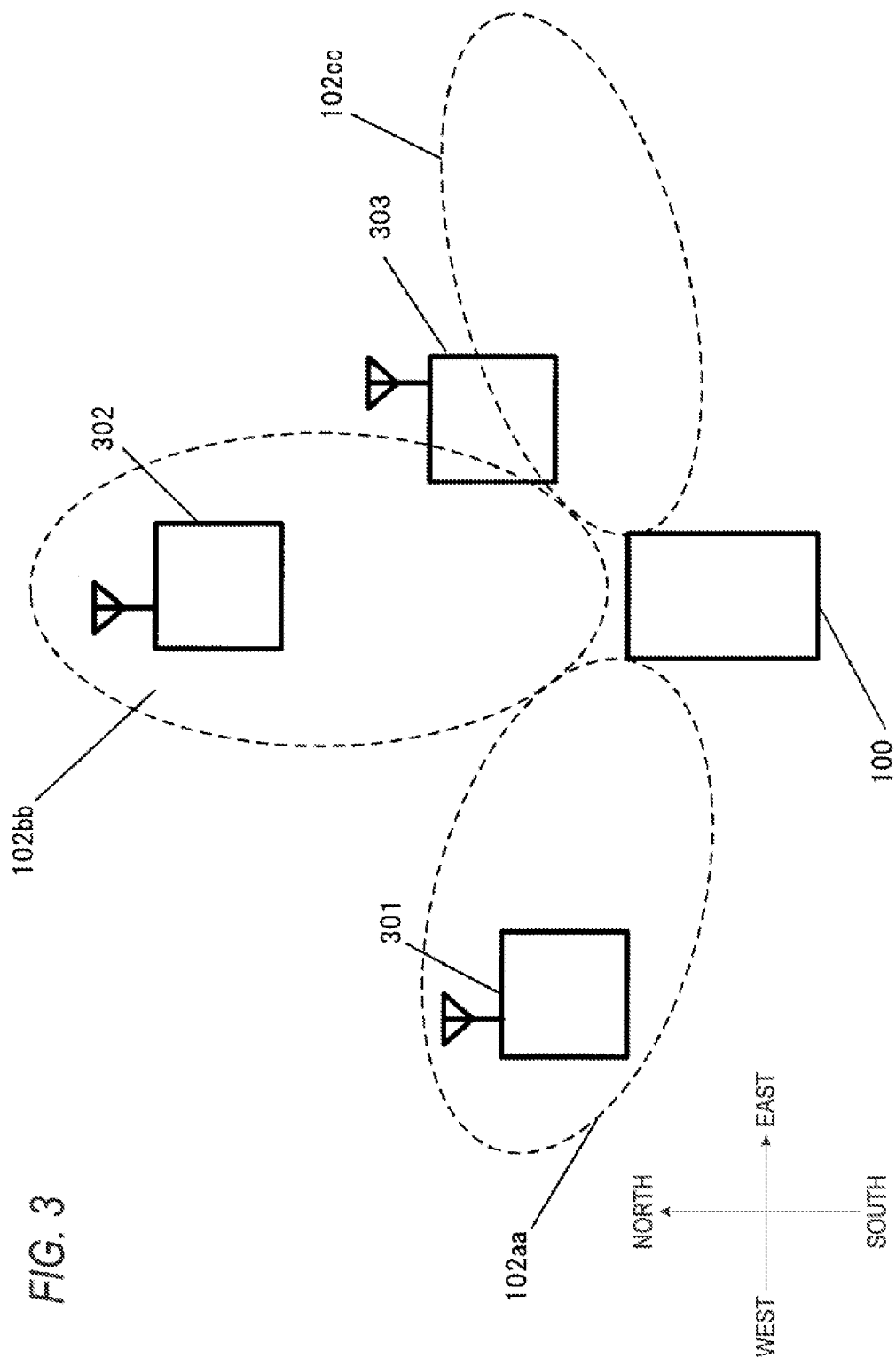


FIG. 4

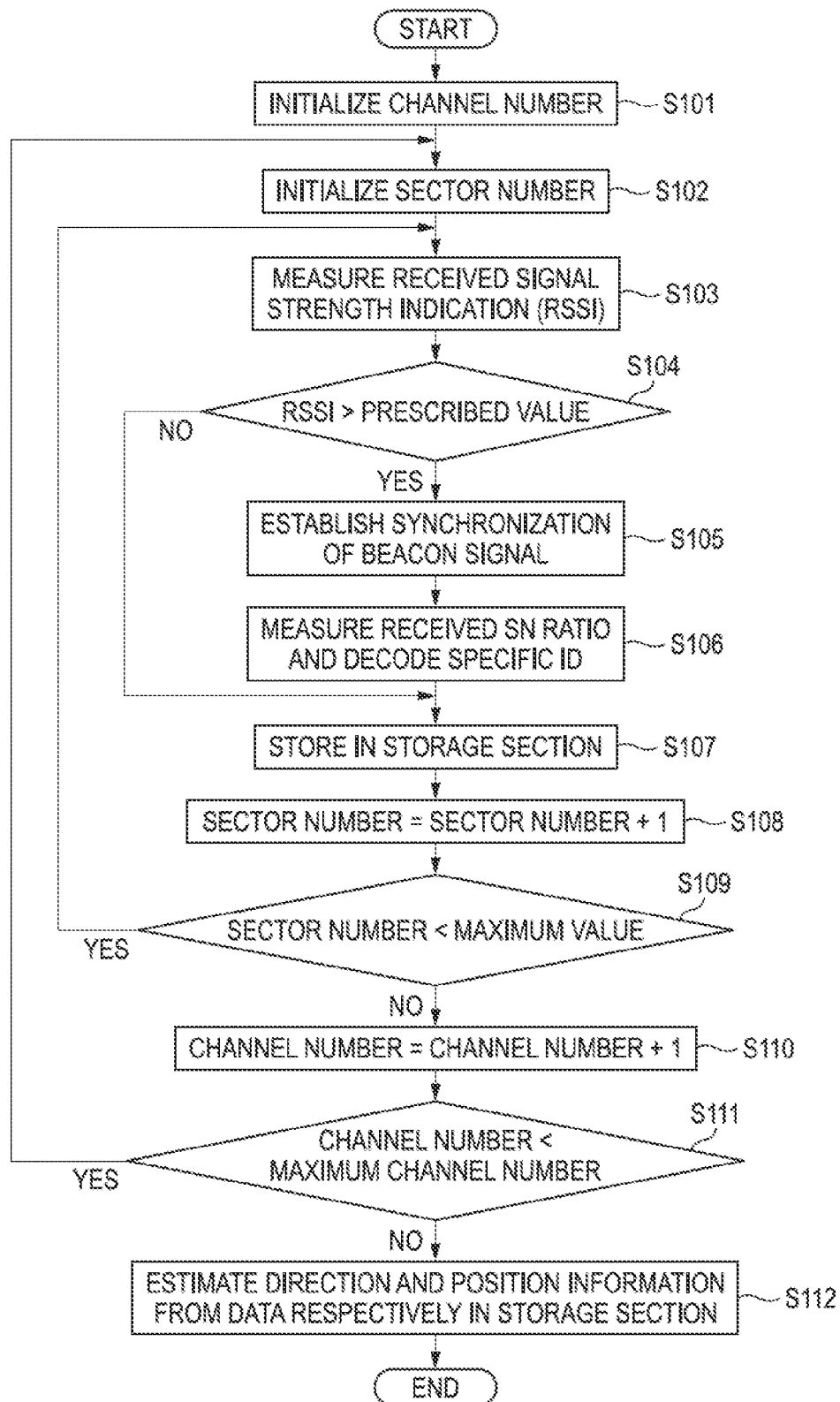


FIG. 5

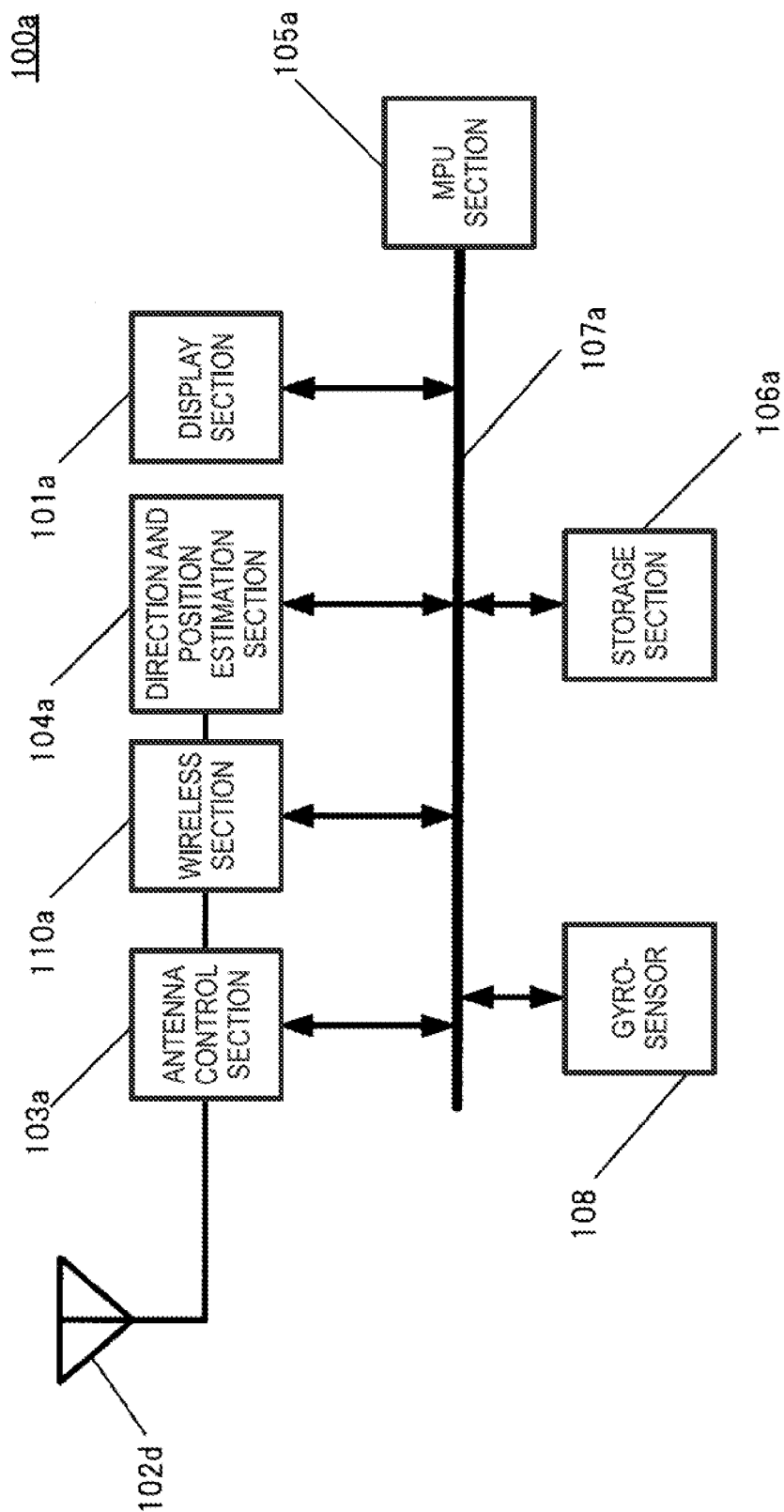
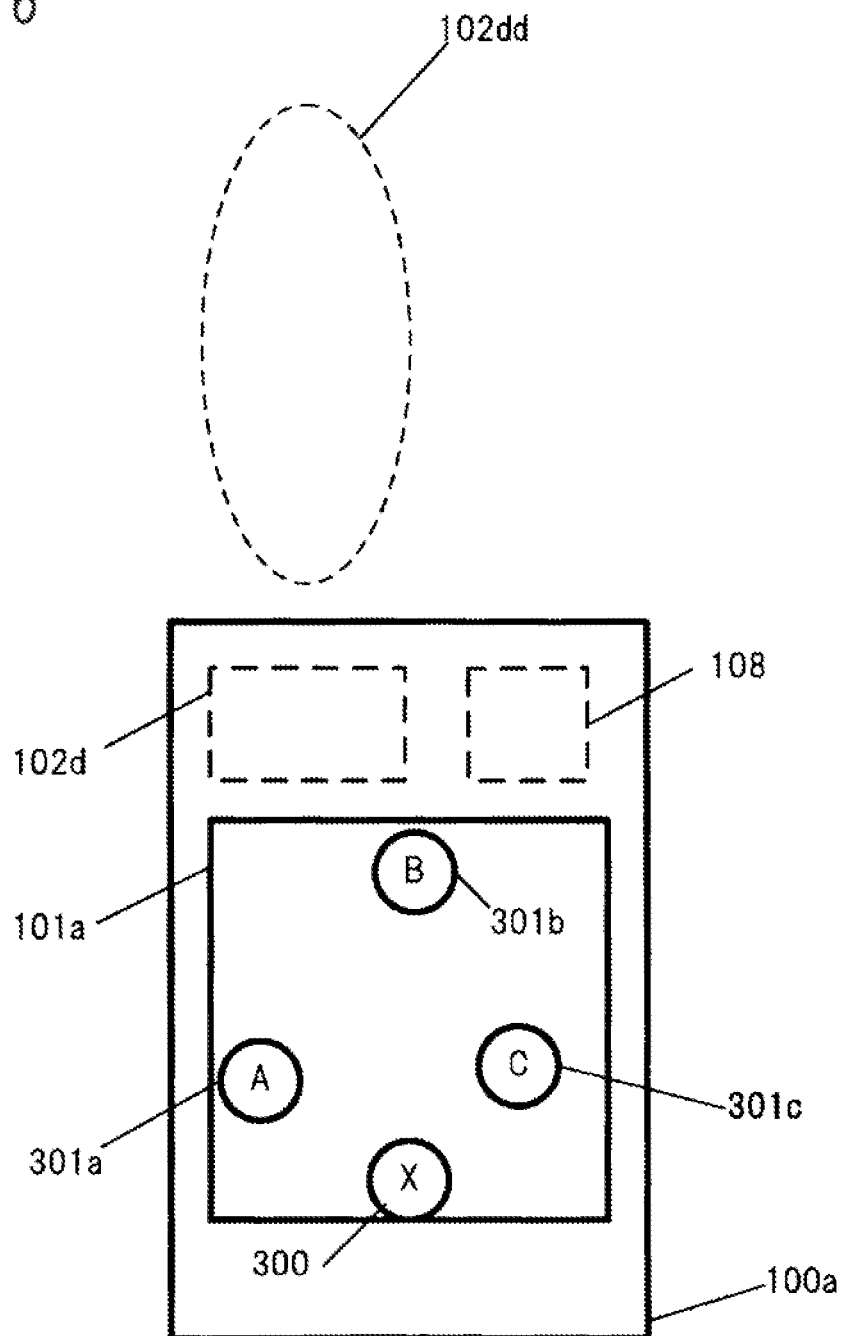


FIG. 6



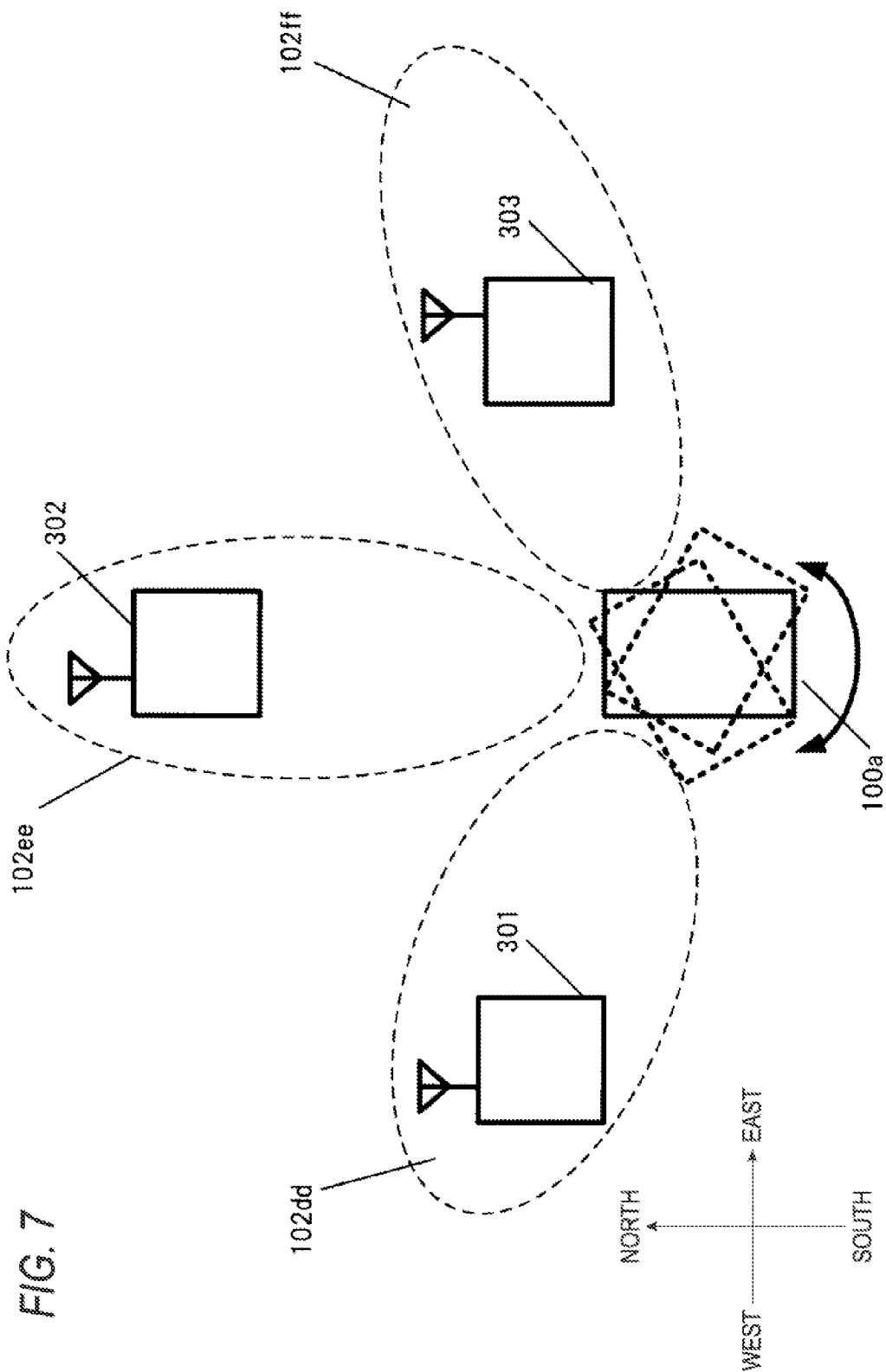
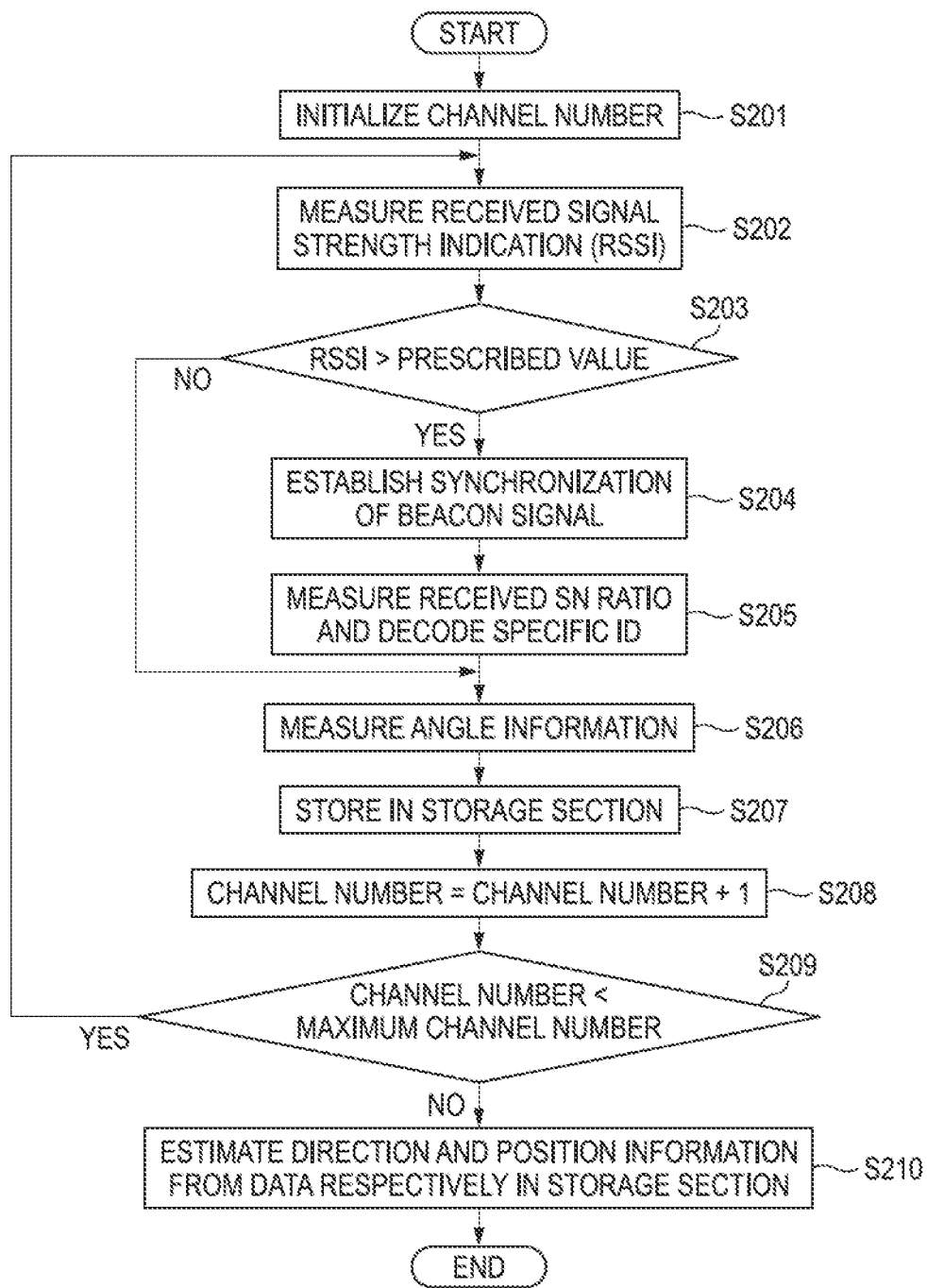
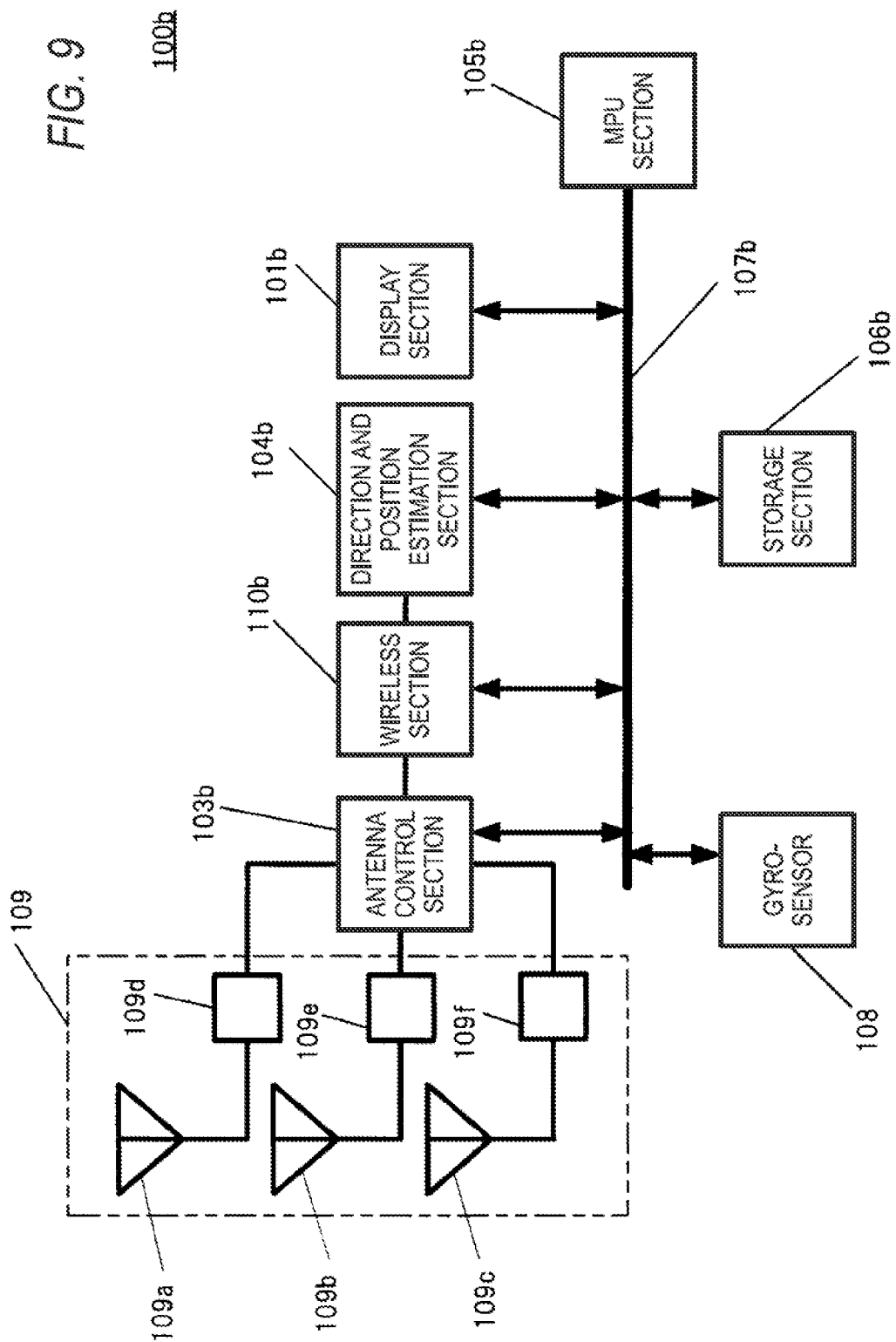


FIG. 8





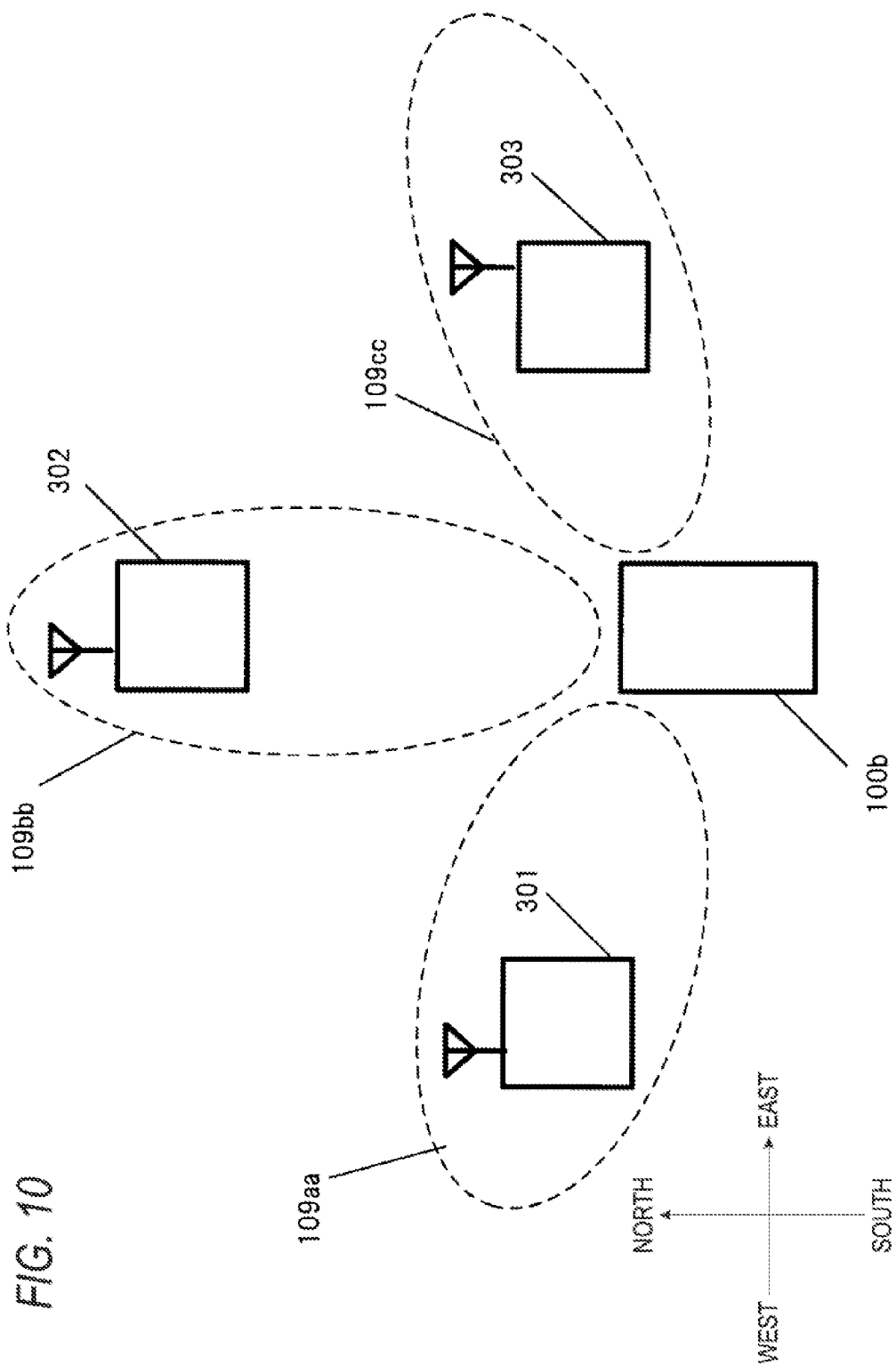
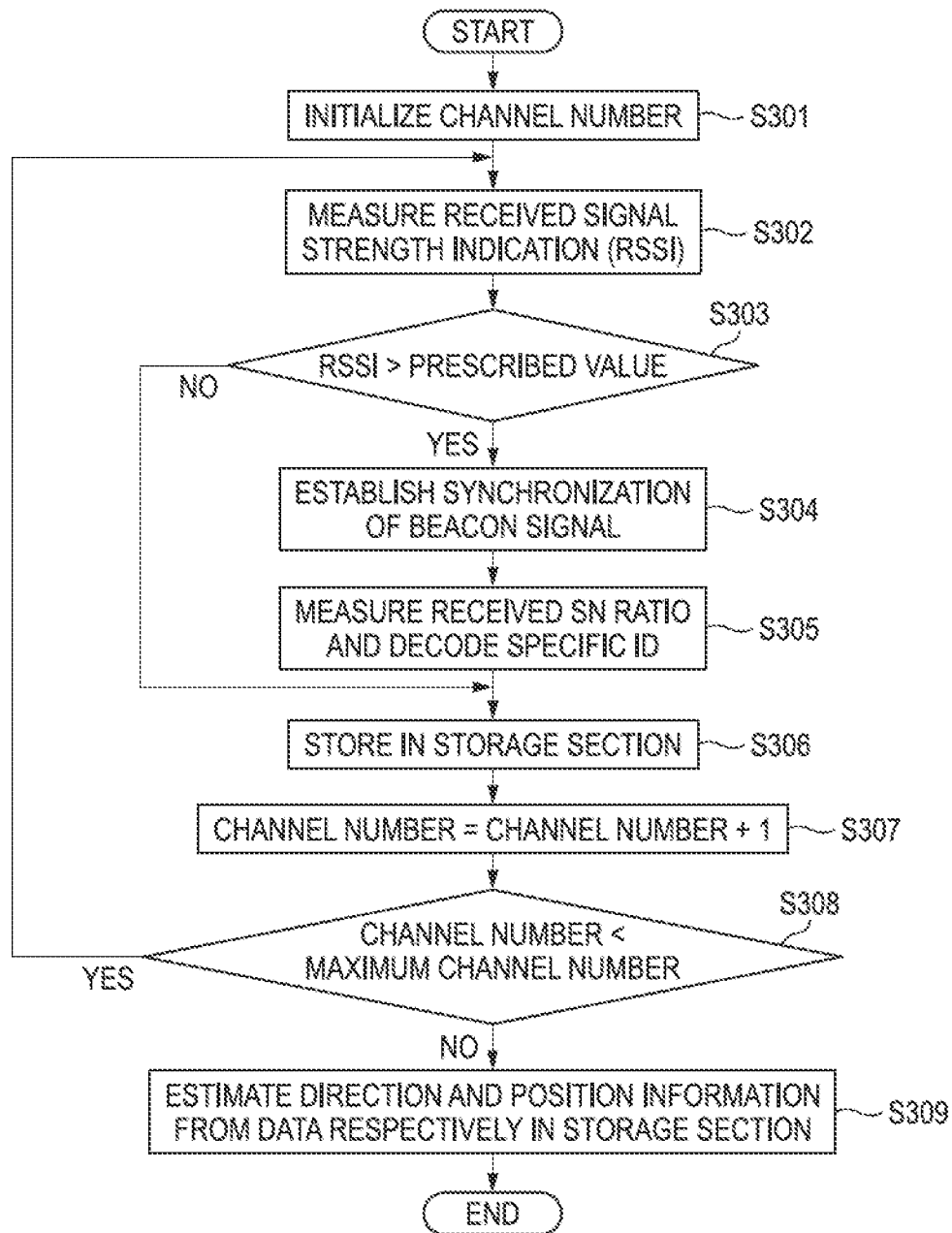


FIG. 11



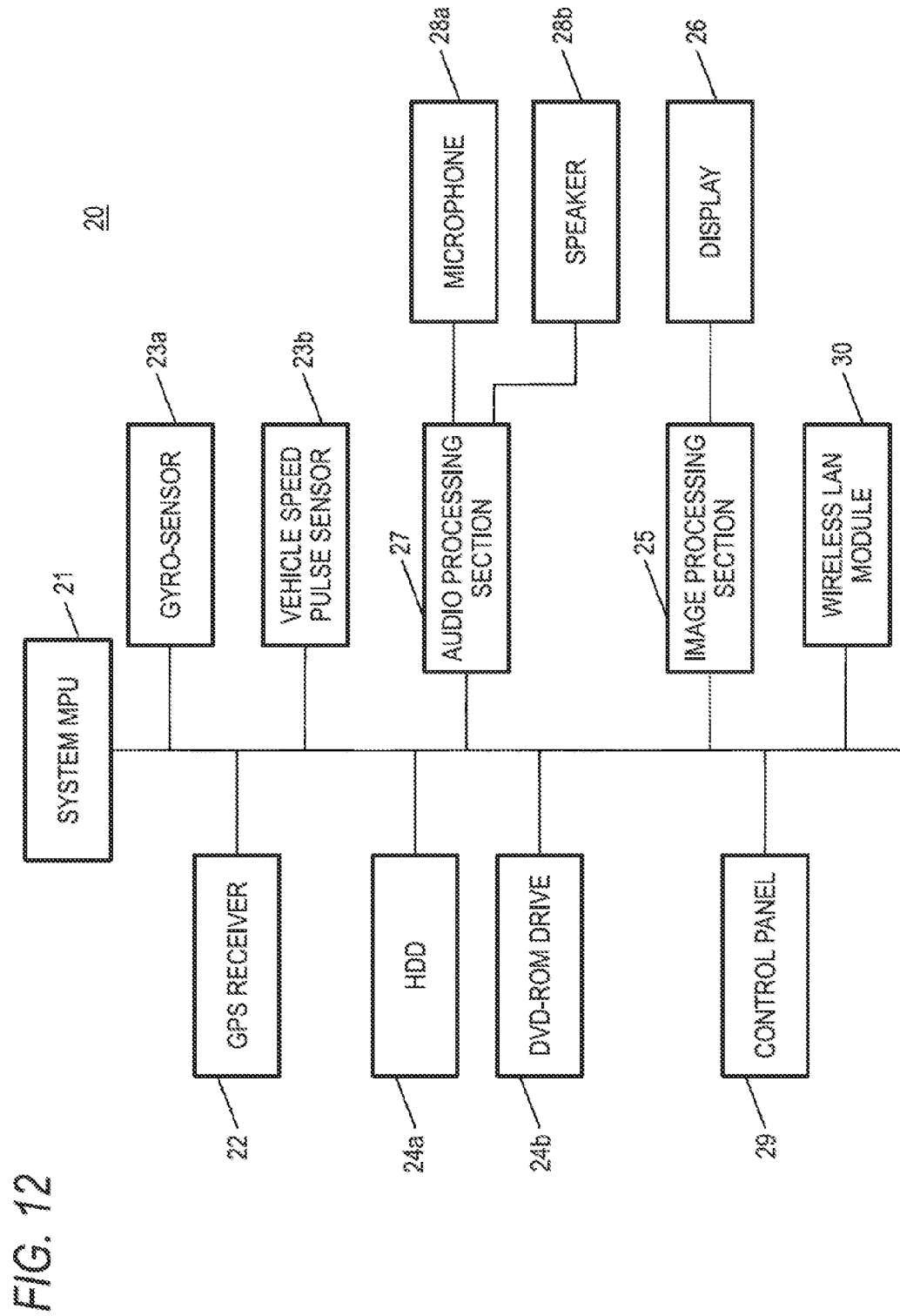


FIG. 13

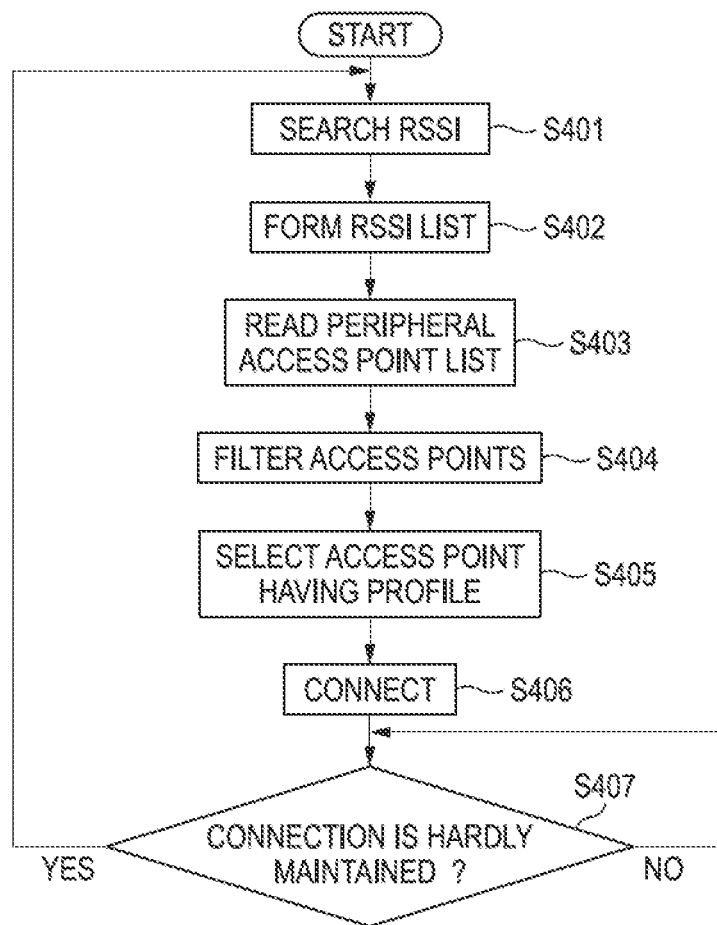


FIG. 14

No.	SSID	POSITION INFORMATION	PROFILE
1	OP1	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	OP1-prof
2	OP2	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	OP2-prof
3	HOME1	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	--
4	HOT1	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	--
5	FSPOT	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	FS-prof
6	HOMES2	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	--
7	OFFICE1	THE NORTH LATITUDE **DEGREE, THE EAST LONGITUDE **DEGREE	--

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING ESTIMATED DIRECTION AND POSITION OF A TARGET FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a wireless communication device and a wireless communication method for detecting a device to be communicated with, which is a target for communication by using an antenna having directivity.

BACKGROUND ART

As one of connection forms to an internet, a wireless LAN (Local Area network) is widely propagated. The wireless LAN, which is different from a wired LAN, is one form of the LAN which can be connected to a network such as the internet without using a LAN cable. The wireless LAN is promoted to be standardized by the IEEE802.11. At present, there are standards of the IEEE802.11b, IEEE802.11g and IEEE802.11a.

The IEEE802.11b is the standard for carrying out a communication at a speed of about 11 Mbps at maximum by using a radio wave of a frequency band of 2.4 GHz. The IEEE802.11g is the standard for carrying out a communication at a speed of about 54 Mbps at maximum by using a radio wave of a frequency band of 2.4 GHz. The IEEE802.11a is the standard for carrying out a communication at a speed of about 54 Mbps at maximum by using a radio wave of a frequency band of 5.2 GHz. A device using the wireless LAN according to these standards constructs the network, so that the device can carry out a communication using the wireless LAN.

A wireless LAN device to be mounted on a vehicle disclosed in Patent Document 1 is known as one example of wireless LAN devices that a device based on the standard of such a wireless LAN is applied to a device to be mounted on a vehicle to carry out a wireless communication between the vehicle on which the device to be mounted on the vehicle is mounted and an external wireless base station.

Here, a structure and an operation of the wireless LAN device to be mounted on the vehicle of the Patent Document 1 will be described below by referring to FIG. 12 to FIG. 14. FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle. FIG. 13 is a flowchart for explaining a connecting procedure to a wireless LAN access point as a target for communication of the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle. FIG. 14 is an explanatory view showing one example of a peripheral access point list.

In FIG. 12, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle includes, a system MPU21, a GPS receiver 22, a gyro-sensor 23a, a vehicle speed pulse sensor 23b, an HDD 24a, a DVD-ROM drive 24b, an image processing section 25, a display 26, an audio processing section 27, a microphone 28a, a speaker 28b, a control panel 29 and a wireless LAN module 30.

The operation of the wireless LAN 20 to be mounted on the vehicle will be described below. In FIG. 13, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle initially searches received signal intensity (RSSI) of a beacon signal broadcast from a wireless LAN access point (S401). The wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle forms an RSSI list of the wireless LAN access points existing in the periphery of a present position of the vehicle of its own (S402). The wireless

LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle forms the RSSI list to specify the wireless LAN access point available at this time.

Then, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle reads the peripheral access point list of the wireless LAN access points existing in the periphery of the present position of the vehicle of its own (S403). The peripheral access point list is previously formed and held by the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle and periodically updated to the latest information.

FIG. 14 is a diagram showing one example of the peripheral access point list. In this example, "No.", "SSID", "position information" of the wireless LAN access point and "profile" are shown. The profile is a setting file including information necessary for connection to the wireless LAN access point. For instance, an MAC address, an encryption system and an encryption key thereof or the like are included.

The encryption system includes WEP, TKIP, AES or the like. The profile does not need to be previously coordinated with all the wireless LAN access points registered in the data base of the HDD 24a or the DVD-ROM drive 24b.

In FIG. 13, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle filters the wireless LAN access points in the peripheral access point list by using the RSSI list (S404). The RSSI list is a list of actually operating wireless LAN access points. However, the peripheral access point list is a list on a data base to the end. Accordingly, it is not obvious that the position information includes even information as to whether or not the wireless LAN access points are actually located or whether or not the wireless access points actually operate. Thus, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle puts the peripheral access point list on the RSSI list, so that the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle can list up only the wireless LAN access points which can be actually connected.

The wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle selects the wireless LAN access point having the profile from the peripheral access point list in which a filtering process is finished (S405) and tries to carry out a network connection to the wireless LAN access point (S406). When the connection is established, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle monitors a connection state and a distance to the access point (S407), and when the connection is hardly maintained, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle resumes the above-described series of connecting procedure (S407, YES).

In such a way, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle can operate so as to cooperate with a car navigation device which can specify the preset position of the vehicle. Further, the wireless LAN device 20 to be mounted on the vehicle can simply set profile information necessary for connecting with the wireless LAN access point and connect with the wireless LAN access point.

RELATED ART DOCUMENTS

Patent Document

Patent Document 1: JP-A-2006-262175

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

However, since a usual wireless communication device including the wireless LAN device to be mounted on the vehicle of the Patent Document 1 carries out the wireless

communication based on the above-described IEEE802.11, a radio wave used in the wireless communication is a microwave of 2.4 GHz or 5.2 GHz. In the usual wireless communication device, since a radio signal in a microwave frequency band is used, an antenna having no directivity is mainly used in the wireless communication.

When the antenna having no directivity is used in the wireless communication, the radio signal may sometimes reach, against an intention, an access point outside a target for communication which is located in a communication area of the usual wireless communication device. Thus, in the access point outside the target for communication, a throughput of communication may be sometimes deteriorated due to the arrival of the radio signal from the wireless communication device. Namely, a problem arises that an erroneous communication with the access point outside the target for communication which is not a desired access point generates communication interference between the desired access point and the usual wireless communication device.

In association with this problem, as a method for realizing a wireless communication at high speed as high as Gbps (Giga bit per second), a method is studied to carry out a communication via a radio wave of an extremely short wavelength by using a millimeter wave frequency band. In the millimeter wave frequency band, since a propagation damping of a signal power of a radio signal is larger than that in the microwave frequency band, an antenna having a high directivity in a prescribed direction is ordinarily used. In a below-described explanation, the antenna having the high directivity in the prescribed direction is referred to as a "directional antenna".

However, when the directional antenna is used, if a previously determined directivity of the directional antenna is different from a desired communication direction, the wireless communication device hardly communicates with an access point, through the access point is located in a communicable short range.

Accordingly, in order to limitedly communicate with the access point located in a specific direction, absolute position information of the access point and the wireless communication device needs to be respectively obtained and the wireless communication device needs to calculate the position of the access point in accordance with the absolute position information.

Specifically, the usual wireless communication device and the access point respectively require GPS receivers which measure and transmit the absolute position information. Further, the wireless communication device requires a specific structure for calculating the position of the access point. Accordingly, such a structure is hardly applied to the wireless communication device such as a mobile telephone that requires a miniaturization and a low consumed electric power.

The present invention is devised by considering the above-described usual technique, and it is an object to derive position and direction information of a communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for communication, via a simple configuration by using a millimeter wave frequency band and effectively reduce a communication interference with the desired communication device to be communicated with.

Means for Solving the Problems

The present invention provides a wireless communication device which transmits and receives a signal by a wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, the wireless communication device including an antenna section

having a plurality of directivities, an antenna control section which forms the directivity of the plurality of directivities of the antenna section in a prescribed direction, a direction and position estimation section which estimates direction and position information of a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for the wireless communication, in accordance with a receiving signal received by the antenna section having the directivity formed, and a display section which displays the estimated direction and position information of the wireless communication device to be communicated with.

The present invention provide a wireless communication device which transmits and receives a signal by a wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, the wireless communication device including an antenna section having a directivity in a prescribed direction, a gyro-sensor which detects angle information corresponding to a position change of the wireless communication device, a direction and position estimation section which estimates direction and position information of a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for the wireless communication, in accordance with a receiving signal received by the antenna section and the angle information, and a display section which displays the estimated direction and position information of the wireless communication device to be communicated with.

The present invention provides a wireless communication method which transmits and receives a signal by a wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band through an antenna having directivities in a plurality of different directions, the wireless communication method including a step which forms a directivity of the plurality of directivities of the antenna in a prescribed direction, a step which estimates direction and position information of a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for the wireless communication, in accordance with a receiving signal received by the antenna having the directivity formed and a step which displays the estimated direction and position information of the wireless communication device to be communicated with.

The present invention provides a wireless communication method which transmits and receives a signal by a wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band through an antenna having directivity in a prescribed direction, the wireless communication method including a step which detects angle information corresponding to a position change of the wireless communication device, a step which estimates direction and position information of a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for the wireless communication of the wireless communication device, in accordance with a receiving signal received by the antenna and the angle information, and a step which displays the estimated direction and position information of the wireless communication device to be communicated with.

Advantageous Effects of the Invention

According to the wireless communication device of the present invention, the relative position and direction information to a communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for communication, can be derived via a simple configuration by using a millimeter wave frequency band and a communication interference with the desired communication device to be communicated with can be effectively reduced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of a wireless communication device of a first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 2 is an explanatory view showing a schematic external appearance of the wireless communication device of the first exemplary embodiment and a state of a display section which displays relative direction and position information of the wireless communication device and an access point.

FIG. 3 is an explanatory view showing a positional relation between the wireless communication device of the first exemplary embodiment and the access point located in a communication area of the wireless communication device.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart for explaining an operation of the wireless communication device of the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of a wireless communication device of a second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 6 is an explanatory view showing a schematic external appearance of the wireless communication device of the second exemplary embodiment and a state of a display section which displays relative direction and position information of the wireless communication device and an access point.

FIG. 7 is an explanatory view showing a positional relation between the wireless communication device of the second exemplary embodiment and the access point located in a communication area of the wireless communication device.

FIG. 8 is a flowchart for explaining an operation of the wireless communication device of the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of a wireless communication device of a third exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 10 is an explanatory view showing a positional relation between the wireless communication device of the third exemplary embodiment and an access point located in a communication area of the wireless communication device.

FIG. 11 is a flowchart for explaining an operation of the wireless communication device of the third exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of a usual LAN device to be mounted on a vehicle.

FIG. 13 is a flowchart for explaining a connecting procedure to a wireless LAN access point as a target for communication of the usual wireless LAN device to be mounted on the vehicle.

FIG. 14 is an explanatory view showing one example of a peripheral access point list.

MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Now, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below by referring to the drawings. In a below-described explanation, as a wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for wireless communication of a wireless communication device of the present invention, for instance, an access point is exemplified which relays a communication of the wireless communication device in a wireless LAN. However, the wireless communication device to be communicated with is not limited to the access point.

Further, in the below-described explanation, position information and direction information of the access point

based on the wireless communication device according to the present invention are described as “direction and position information”.

Further, in the following description, it is assumed that the wireless communication device according to the present invention can use, as frequency channels capable of transmission and reception, two frequency channels in total including a channel 1 and a channel 2 of a millimeter wave frequency band. Further, it is assumed that the access point as a target for communication of the wireless communication device can use the same frequency channels. In the following explanation, the number of channels is two. However, even when the number of frequency channels is three or more, the same operation is carried out.

First Exemplary Embodiment

A structure of a wireless communication device 100 of a first exemplary embodiment will be described below by referring to FIG. 1 to FIG. 3. FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of the wireless communication device 100 of the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 2 is an explanatory view showing a schematic external appearance of the wireless communication device 100 of the first exemplary embodiment and a state of a display section 101 which displays direction and position information of the wireless communication device 100 and access points 301 to 303.

FIG. 3 is an explanatory view showing a positional relation between the wireless communication device 100 of the first exemplary embodiment and the access points 301 to 303 located in communication areas of the wireless communication device 100.

As shown in FIG. 1, in the wireless communication device 100, a display section 101, an antenna control section 103, a wireless section 110, a direction and position estimation section 104, an MPU (Micro Processor Unit) section 105 and a storage section 106 are respectively connected together through a data bus section 107. An antenna section 102 is connected to the antenna control section 103. The wireless section 110 is connected to the antenna control section 103 and the direction and position estimation section 104. The wireless communication device of the present invention is mounted on devices, for instance, a smart phone, a mobile terminal, a mobile telephone, a tablet, a portable game machine, a note PC, etc.

The display section 101 is formed with an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) or the like. The display section 101 clearly displays in accordance with direction and position information of the access points 301 to 303 derived by the wireless communication device 100. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 2, the display section 101 clearly displays an icon 300 of the wireless communication device 100, and icons 301a, 301b and 301c of the access points 301 to 303.

The antenna section 102 is formed with a plurality of antennas, for instance, three directional antennas 102a, 102b and 102c. As shown in FIG. 2, the directional antennas 102a to 102c are antennas having high and narrow directivities 102aa, 102bb and 102cc respectively in different directions and operated by fed electric power supplied from the antenna control section 103. To the directional antennas 102a to 102c forming the antenna section 102 respectively, numbers which identify the directional antennas are previously designated. In the following description, the numbers for identifying the directional antennas 102a to 102c are respectively referred to as “sector numbers”. In the present exemplary embodiment, the sector number of the directional antenna 102a is set to 1

the sector number of the directional antenna **102b** is set to 2 and the sector number of the directional antenna **102c** is set to 3.

The directional antennas **102a** to **102c** receive specific information signals transmitted from the access points **301** to **303** respectively located in the communication areas of the directional antennas in the frequency channels capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100**.

The specific information signals are characteristic information signals respectively including identification number information of the access points **301** to **303**. In the following description, the specific information signals respectively sent from the access points **301** to **303** are referred to as "beacon signals". The identification number information of the access points **301** to **303** is one example of identification information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively.

For instance, in the beacon signals, the identification number information of the access points **301** to **303** is respectively included. The identification number information includes an MAC address, an SSID (Service Set Identifier) or an ESSID (Extended Service Set Identifier) or the like of each of the access points **301** to **303**. An explanation related to the beacon signal is the same respectively in below-described exemplary embodiments.

The antenna control section **103** switches the directional antennas used when the beacon signal is received to select any of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c**, and further supplies the fed electric power to the selected directional antenna.

The antenna control section **103** temporarily stores the sector number of the selected directional antenna in the storage section **106**. The antenna control section **103** forms the directivity of the selected directional antenna as a directivity of the antenna section **102**.

Further, the wireless section **110** sets the frequency channel capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100** to the above-described channel **1** or the channel **2**, and detects whether or not the beacon signal is transmitted from the access points **301** to **303** in the channel **1** or the channel **2**. The wireless section **110** temporarily stores the set channel **1** or channel **2** in the storage section **106**.

The wireless section **110** outputs the beacon signal received by any of the directional antennas selected so as to form the directivity of the antenna section **102** to the direction and position estimation section **104** through the data bus section **107**.

The direction and position estimation section **104** inputs the beacon signal outputted by the wireless section **110** through the data bus section **107**. The direction and position estimation section **104** derives the direction and position information of the access point which transmits the beacon signal in accordance with the inputted beacon signal.

The direction and position estimation section **104** stores the derived direction and position information of any of the access points **301** to **303** in the storage section **106** through the data bus section **107**. A detail of the derivation of the direction and position information will be described below.

The MPU section **105** is formed with an MPU to control operations of the sections of the wireless communication device **100** respectively shown in FIG. 1. For instance, the MPU section **105** displays on the display section **101** icons **300**, **301a**, **302a**, and **303a** of the access points respectively in accordance with the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** stored in the storage section **106**. Data showing functions of the icons **300**, **301a**, **301b** and **301c** (see FIG. 2) respectively corresponding to the access points is preferably previously stored in the storage section

106. The data showing the functions includes types of printers, monitors or the like, transmitting speed of data respectively supported by the access points, types of applications or a presence or absence or intensity of a security function or the like.

The storage section **106** includes a hard disk, a flash memory, a ROM (Read Only Memory), a RAM (Random Access Memory) or the like. The storage section **106** stores the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively derived by the direction and position estimation section **104**.

Further, the storage section **106** functions as a work memory when the sections of the wireless communication device **100** respectively operate.

As shown in FIG. 3, the access points **301** to **303** respectively operate as independent access points. The access points **301** to **303** periodically transmit the beacon signals respectively including the identification number information of the access points by using the different frequency channels (the channel **1** or the channel **2**) in the millimeter wave frequency band. An explanation of the access points **301** to **303** is the same in below-described exemplary embodiments.

FIG. 3 shows that the access point **301** is detected in the communication area formed by the directivity **102aa** of the directional antenna **102a**. Similarly, FIG. 3 shows that the access point **302** is detected in the communication area formed by the directivity **102bb** of the directional antenna **102b**. Similarly, FIG. 3 shows that the access point **303** is detected in an intermediate spot of the communication areas respectively formed by the directivity **102bb** of the directional antenna **102b** and the directivity **102cc** of the directional antenna **102c**.

Now, an operation of the wireless communication device **100** will be described by referring to FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is a flowchart for explaining the operation of the wireless communication device **100** of the first exemplary embodiment.

In FIG. 4, the wireless section **110** initializes the number of the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band (**S101**). Namely, the wireless section **110** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100** to the channel **1**. Information that the frequency channel is set to the channel **1** is stored in the storage section **106**.

The antenna control section **103** initializes the sector numbers of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** to 1 (**S102**). Namely, the antenna control section **103** initially selects the directional antenna **102a** of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** of the antenna section **120** as the directional antenna for forming the directivity of the antenna section **102**.

Thus, in the antenna section **102** of the wireless communication device **100**, as shown in FIG. 3, the directivity **102aa** of the directional antenna **102a** is formed. The wireless communication device **100** detects whether or not the access point which is a target for communication of the wireless communication **100** is located in the communication area (not shown in the drawing) of the formed directivity **102aa** of the directional antenna **102a**.

The wireless section **110** measures a received electric field intensity (RSSI: Received Signal Strength Indication) existing in the channel **1** in the millimeter wave frequency band (**S103**). When the measured received signal strength indication exceeds a prescribed value (**S104**, YES), the wireless section **110** moves to an operation for establishing a synchronization of the beacon signal (**S105**) to detect a preamble of the beacon signal and establishes the synchronization of the beacon signal (**S105**). After the wireless section **110** estab-

lishes the synchronization of the beacon signal, the wireless section **110** receives the beacon signal and outputs the beacon signal to the direction and position estimation section **104**. On the other hand, when the measured received signal strength indication is lower than the prescribed value (S104, NO), the wireless section **110** advances to step S107 to store only information of the received signal strength indication in the storage section **106**.

The direction and position estimation section **104** inputs the beacon signal outputted by the wireless section **110**. The direction and position estimation section **104** demodulates a data area of the beacon signal in accordance with information of a header area of the inputted beacon signal. The direction and position estimation section **104** derives the received signal strength indication and a received SN ratio of the beacon signal in accordance with data of the demodulated data area (S106). Further, the direction and position estimation section **104** extracts the identification number information of the access point included in the header area of the beacon signal. In the identification number information, the MAC addresses, the SSID or the ESSID or the like of the access points **301** to **303** are respectively included.

The direction and position estimation section **104** coordinates the extracted identification number information of the access points with information of the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signal derived in the step S106 and stores the information in the storage section **106** (S107).

Then, the antenna control section **103** adds 1 to the present sector numbers (=1) of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** of the antenna section **102** to set the sector numbers to 2 (S108). Namely, the antenna control section **103** selects the directional antenna **102b** having the sector number of 2 among the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** of the antenna section **102** as the directional antenna for forming the directivity of the antenna section **102**.

Then, the wireless communication device **100** decides whether or not the present sector number exceeds a maximum value of the sector numbers in the antenna section **102** (S109). Namely, the wireless communication device **100** repeats the above-described operations from the step S103 to the step S108 in all the frequency channels capable of transmission and reception. That is, the wireless communication device **100** forms respectively the directivities **102aa** to **102cc** of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** in the channel 1 of the millimeter wave frequency band and detects whether or not the access points are located in the communication areas of the formed directivities.

When the present sector number exceeds the maximum value of the sector numbers in the antenna section **102** (S109, NO), the wireless section **110** changes the frequency channel now set in the millimeter wave frequency band from the channel 1 to the channel 2 (S110). After that, the wireless communication device **100** repeats the above-described operations of the step S102 to the step S109 (S111). For instance, when the frequency channel set at present is not 2 which is a maximum channel number (S111, YES), the wireless communication device **100** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band to the channel 2. Further, the wireless communication device **100** forms respectively the directivities **102aa** to **102cc** of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** of the antenna section **102** in the channel 2 and detects whether or not the access points are located in the communication areas of the formed directivities.

As mentioned above, information which is shown below is coordinated with the frequency channel and the sector number of any directional antenna of the directional antennas

102a to **102c** and stored in the storage section **106**. The information coordinated with the frequency channel and the sector number of the directional antenna includes the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signal received by the directional antenna and the identification number information of the access point.

The direction and position estimation section **104** derives the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively in accordance with the data stored in the storage section **106**, specifically, the received SN ratio.

Antenna gains of the access points **301** to **303** and a signal electric power of the beacon signals are supposed to be included in the beacon signals transmitted from the access points **301** to **303**.

The received SN ratio is determined by using the received beacon signals, and the signal electric power of the beacon signals respectively transmitted by the access points **301** to **303**, the antenna gains of the access points **301** to **303** and gains and noise factors of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c**.

Accordingly, when the antenna gains of the access points **301** to **301** and the signal electric power of the beacon signals are understood, the direction and position estimation section **104** can derive a propagated distance from the received SN ratio derived in the step S106.

The direction and position estimation section **104** derives the direction and position information of the wireless communication device **100** and the access points **301** to **303** respectively in accordance with the above-described received SN ratio stored in the storage section **106** (S112).

The direction information of the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively based on the wireless communication device **100** is determined on the basis of the directivity of the antenna section **102** when the antenna section receives the beacon signals sent from the access points **301** to **303**.

For instance, when the directivity **102aa** of the antenna section **102** is formed, if the beacon signal is received from the access point **301**, the direction information of the access point **301** is expressed substantially as a northwest side as shown in FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, for the purpose of explanation, the direction of the access point **301** is expressed as a northwest by expressing an upper direction of the drawing as a north, a left direction as a west and a right direction as an east. The direction information of other access points **302** and **303** are similarly expressed even when the beacon signals are respectively received.

Further, distance information of the wireless communication device **100** and the access points **301** to **303** of the direction and position information is determined as an estimated value based on the propagated distance of the beacon signal derived in accordance with the received SN ratio in the step S112.

Further, as shown in FIG. 3, the access point **303** detected in the intermediate spot of the communication area where the directivity **102bb** is formed and the communication area where the directivity **102cc** is formed derives the direction and position information of the access point **303** in such a way as described below.

Specifically, the direction and position estimation section **104** respectively derives the direction and position information of the access point when the directivity **102bb** is formed and the direction and position information of the access point when the directivity **102cc** is formed. Further, the direction and position estimation section **104** derives an intersecting point of a direction (an angle) and a position (a distance)

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respectively included in the derived direction and position information to derive the direction and position information of the access point **303**.

The direction and position estimation section **104** stores the derived direction and position information of the access point **303** in the storage section **106**. The MPU section **105** clearly displays, as shown in FIG. 2, the direction and position information of the access points stored in the storage section **106** on the display section **101**. As the direction and position information of the access points, the MPU section **105** displays the identification number information, for instance, the ESSID on the display section **101**. Thus, the wireless communication device **100** can easily urge a user to select the access point which can be connected to the wireless communication device **100**.

Now, one available example of the access points **301** to **303** will be described below. For instance, the access point **301** is supposed to be a television having a large screen and the access point **302** is supposed to be a PC (Personal Computer). Further, the access point **303** is supposed to be a storage device such as an HOD (Hard disk Drive) recorder. The wireless communication device **100** sequentially forms the directivities respectively for the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** by using the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** having the high and narrow directivities in the frequency channel of the millimeter wave frequency band to detect whether or not the access points exist.

Thus, the wireless communication device **100** is supposed to send a file from the wireless communication device **100** to the storage device which is the access point **303** of the access points **301** to **303** respectively having the direction and position information derived. Even under this state, the wireless communication device **100** can suppress the leakage of a radio wave to the television or a transmitting signal to the PC. Accordingly, in the present exemplary embodiment, for instance, a communication between the wireless communication device **100** and the storage device can be established, and a communication between the PC and the television can be established at the same time.

Accordingly, the wireless communication device **100** of the first exemplary embodiment can derive the relative position and direction information to the access points **301** to **303** which are targets for communication via a simple configuration by using a millimeter wave frequency band. Further, since the wireless communication device **100** can simply realize a communication with the desired access points **301** to **303**, a communication interference with the desired access points **301** to **303** can be effectively reduced.

On the above-described display section **101**, as the icons of the access points **301** to **303** respectively, the identification number information of the access points, for instance, the ESSID is preferably displayed. However, the icons of the access points **301** to **303** are not limited to the identification number information. For instance, the display section **101** may display image data of the television, the PC, a printer or the like as icons. In this case, these image data is supposed to be previously stored in the storage section **106** of the wireless communication device **100**.

In the wireless communication device **100** of the first exemplary embodiment, a touch panel may be arranged on the display section **101**. This may be applied to below-described exemplary embodiments in the same manner. In this case, in an input operation of the touch panel, after the user properly recognizes the position and direction of the desired access point as a target to be communicated with, the user can properly select the directional antenna which forms the directivity in the direction of the desired access point.

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Thus, in the wireless communication device **100**, the user can instantaneously form the directivity in the direction of the desired access point, and further, a time for establishing a communication can be more shortened. Further, since the wireless communication device **100** can more shorten the time for establishing the communication with the access point, secrecy of communication can be improved.

Further, since the directional antenna having the narrow directivity which meets the millimeter wave frequency band ordinarily has a high antenna gain. Therefore, the use of the directional antenna having the narrow directivity which meets the millimeter wave frequency band can improve a line quality. Accordingly, the wireless communication device **100** forms the directivities **102aa** to **102cc** of the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** in more suitable directions, so that the wireless communication device can easily realize a high-speed wireless communication of the giga bit class.

Second Exemplary Embodiment

A structure of a wireless communication device **100a** of a second exemplary embodiment will be described by referring to FIG. 5 to FIG. 7. In an explanation of structures and operations of the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment, a description of the same structures and operations as those of the wireless communication device **100** of the first exemplary embodiment will be omitted. FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 6 is an explanatory view showing a schematic external appearance of the wireless communication device of the second exemplary embodiment and a state of a display section **101a** which displays direction and position information of the wireless communication device **100a** and access points **301** to **303**.

FIG. 7 is an explanatory view showing a positional relation between the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment and the access point **301** to **303** located in communication areas of the wireless communication device **100a**.

As shown in FIG. 5, in the wireless communication device **100a**, a display section **101a**, an antenna control section **103a**, a wireless section **110a**, a direction and position estimation section **104a**, an MPU section **105a**, a storage section **106a** and a gyro-sensor **108** are respectively connected together through a data bus section **107a**. A directional antenna **102d** is connected to the wireless section **110a**.

As shown in FIG. 6, the directional antenna **102d** is an antenna having a high and narrow directivity **102dd** in a previously securely determined direction and operated by fed electric power supplied from the antenna control section **103a**. The directional antenna **102d** receives a beacon signal transmitted from an access point located in a communication area of the directional antenna **102d** in a frequency channel capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100a**.

The antenna control section **103a** supplies the fed electric power to the directional antenna **102d** to form the directivity **102dd** in the directional antenna **102d**.

The wireless section **110a** sets the frequency channel capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100a** to a channel **1** or a channel **2**, and detects whether or not the beacon signal is transmitted from the access points **301** to **303** in the channel **1** or the channel **2**. The wireless section **110a** outputs the beacon signal received

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by the directional antenna **102d** to the direction and position estimation section **104a** through the data bus section **107a**

The wireless section **110a** temporarily stores set contents of the set channel **1** or channel **2** in the storage section **106a**. The number of channels may be three or more.

Since operations of the direction and position estimation section **104a**, the MPU section **105a** and the storage section **106a** are the same as the operations of the direction and position estimation section **104**, the MPU section **105** and the storage section **106** of the above-described first exemplary embodiment, an explanation of the operations will be omitted.

The gyro-sensor **108** detects angle information corresponding to a holding state of a user who holds the wireless communication device **100a**. The gyro-sensor **108** outputs the detected angle information respectively to the direction and position estimation section **104a** and the storage section **106a** through the data bus section **107a**.

FIG. 7 shows that the access point **301** is detected in the communication area where the directivity **102dd** of the directional antenna **102d** is formed in accordance with the angle information corresponding to the held state of the wireless communication device **100a** by the user.

Similarly, FIG. 7 shows that the access point **302** is detected in the communication area where the directivity **102ee** of the directional antenna **102d** is formed in accordance with the angle information corresponding to the held state of the wireless communication device **100a** by the user.

Similarly, FIG. 7 shows that the access point **303** is detected in the communication area where the directivity **102ff** of the directional antenna **102d** is formed in accordance with the angle information corresponding to the held state of the wireless communication device **100a** by the user.

Now, an operation of the wireless communication device **100a** will be described by referring to FIG. 8. FIG. 8 is a flowchart for explaining the operation of the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment.

In FIG. 8, the wireless section **110a** initializes the number of the frequency channel in a millimeter wave frequency band (**S201**). Namely, the wireless section **110a** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100a** to the channel **1**. Information that the frequency channel is set to the channel **1** is stored in the storage section **106a**.

The wireless section **110a** measures a received signal strength indication located in the channel **1** in the millimeter wave frequency band (**S202**). When the measured received signal strength indication exceeds a prescribed value (**S203**, YES), the wireless section **110a** moves to an operation for establishing a synchronization of the beacon signal (**S204**) to detect a preamble of the beacon signal and establishes the synchronization of the beacon signal (**S204**). After the wireless section **110a** establishes the synchronization of the beacon signal, the wireless section **110a** receives the beacon signal and outputs the beacon signal to the direction and position estimation section **104a**. On the other hand, when the measured received signal strength indication is lower than the prescribed value (**S203**, NO), the wireless section **110a** advances to step **S207** to store the angle information and information of the received signal strength indication in the storage section **106a**.

The direction and position estimation section **104a** inputs the beacon signal outputted by the wireless section **110a**. The direction and position estimation section **104a** demodulates a data area of the beacon signal in accordance with information

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of a header area of the inputted beacon signal. The direction and position estimation section **104a** derives the received signal strength indication and a received SN ratio of the beacon signal in accordance with data of the demodulated data area (**S205**). Further, the direction and position estimation section **104a** extracts identification number information of the access point included in the header area of the beacon signal. In the identification number information, MAC addresses, an SSID or an ESSID or the like of the access points **301** to **303** are respectively included.

At this time, the gyro-sensor **108** detects the angle information corresponding to the holding state of the user who holds the wireless communication device **100a** (**S206**). Then, the gyro-sensor **108** outputs the detected angle information respectively to the direction and position estimation section **104a** and the storage section **106a** through the data bus section **107a**.

The direction and position estimation section **104a** coordinates the extracted identification number information of the access points with the information of the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signal derived in the step **S205** and stores the information in the storage section **106a** (**S207**).

Then, the wireless section **110a** changes the frequency channel now set in the millimeter wave frequency band from the channel **1** to the channel **2** (**S208**). After that, the wireless communication device **100a** repeats the above-described operations of the step **S202** to the step **S207** in all the frequency channels capable of transmission and reception (**S209**). For instance, when the frequency channel set at present is not the channel **2** which is a maximum channel number (**S209**, YES), the wireless communication device **100a** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band to the channel **2**. Further, the wireless communication device **100a** detects the access points respectively located in the communication areas of the directivities **102dd** to **102ff** of the directional antenna **102d** which are formed correspondingly to the angle information detected by the gyro-sensor **108** in the channel **2**.

As mentioned above, in the storage section **106a**, data of the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signal received by the directional antenna **102d** and the identification number information of the access points is respectively stored correspondingly to the frequency channels and the directional antenna **102d**.

The direction and position estimation section **104a** derives direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively in accordance with the data stored in the storage section **106a**, specifically, the received SN ratio (**S210**).

Directions of the access points **301** to **303** of the direction and position information are respectively determined in accordance with a direction of the wireless communication device **100a** to which the directivities of the directional antenna **102d** receiving the beacon signals transmitted from the access points **301** to **303** are directed. The directions of the access points **301** to **303** are respectively based on the wireless communication device **100a**.

The directivity of the directional antenna **102d** depends on the angle information detected by the gyro-sensor **108**. For instance, when the beacon signal is received from the access point **301**, direction information of the access point **301** is set to the angle information detected by the gyro-sensor **108** when the directivity **102dd** is formed as shown in FIG. 7. Direction information of other access points **302** and **303** is similarly set even when the beacon signals are respectively received.

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Further, distance information (position information) of the wireless communication device **100a** and the access points **301** to **303** in the direction and position information is determined in accordance with a propagated distance of the beacon signal derived in accordance with the received SN ratio in the step **S210**.

Accordingly, the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment can derive the position and direction information to the access points **301** to **303** which are targets for communication via a simple configuration by using the millimeter wave frequency band like the above-described wireless communication device **100**. Further, since the wireless communication device **100a** can simply realize a communication with the desired access points **301** to **303**, a communication interference with the desired access points **301** to **303** can be effectively reduced.

On the display section **101a** of the wireless communication device **100a**, as icons of the access points **301** to **303**, the identification number information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively, for instance, an SSID is displayed as in the first exemplary embodiment. Accordingly, when the wireless communication device communicates with the access point with the displayed icon, the user holds the wireless communication device **100a** so as to be inclined to a direction of the access point. Thus, the wireless communication device **100a** can simply realize a communication with the access point.

As explained in the above-described second exemplary embodiment, the directional antenna **102d** is used which has the high and narrow directivity in the previously securely determined direction. However, in the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment, the directional antennas **102a** to **102c** which can switch the directivity forming the antenna section **102** described in the first exemplary embodiment may be used in place of the directional antenna **102d**.

In this case, directional antennas **102a'** to **102c'** having narrower communication areas are used so that directivities set in the directional antennas **102a** and **102c** may be more finely divided so as to switch the communication area set by the directional antenna **102d**.

When the user inclines the wireless communication device **100a** to form the directivity, the wireless communication device **100a** can highly accurately estimate the direction and position information of the access points.

Third Exemplary Embodiment

A structure of a wireless communication device **100b** of a third exemplary embodiment will be described by referring to FIG. 9 and FIG. 10. In an explanation of structures and operations of the wireless communication device **100b** of the third exemplary embodiment, a description of the same structures and operations as those of the wireless communication device **100** of the first exemplary embodiment or the wireless communication device **100a** of the second exemplary embodiment will be omitted. FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an inner structure of the wireless communication device **100b** of the third exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 10 is an explanatory view showing a schematic external appearance of the wireless communication device **100b** of the third exemplary embodiment and a state of a display section **101b** which displays direction and position information of the wireless communication device **100b** and access points **301** to **303**.

As shown in FIG. 9, in the wireless communication device **100b**, a display section **101b**, an antenna control section **103b**, a wireless section **110b**, a direction and position estimation

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section **104b**, an MPU section **105b**, a storage section **106b** and a gyro-sensor **108** are respectively connected together through a data bus section **107b**. The gyro-sensor **108** may be omitted in the wireless communication device **100b**. An antenna section **109** is connected to the antenna control section **103b**. The wireless section **110b** is connected to the antenna control section **103b** and the direction and position estimation section **104b**.

As shown in FIG. 9, the antenna section **109** is phased array antennas formed with a plurality of antennas, for instance, three antennas **109a**, **109b** and **109c** and phase adjustment sections **109d**, **109e** and **109f** respectively connected to the antennas **109a** to **109c**.

In the antenna section **109**, the phase adjustment sections **109d** to **109f** respectively formed with phase converters adjust phases of transmitting signals transmitted from the antennas **109a** to **109c** to provide prescribed phase differences between the signals. Thus, directivities are formed in prescribed directions. The antenna section **109** is operated by fed electric power supplied from the antenna control section **103b**.

The antennas **109a** to **109c** respectively receive beacon signals transmitted from access points **301** to **303** respectively located in communication areas of the antennas **109a** to **109c** in frequency channels capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100b**.

The antenna control section **103b** supplies the fed electric power to the antenna section **109** to control the directivities of the phased array antennas of the supplied antenna section **109**. The antenna control section **103b** is connected to the wireless section **110b**.

The wireless section **110** sets the frequency channel capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100b** to a channel **1** or a channel **2**, and detects whether or not the beacon signals are transmitted from the access points **301** to **303** in the channel **1** or the channel **2**. The wireless section **110b** temporarily stores the setting contents of the set channel **1** or channel **2** in the storage section **106**.

The wireless section **110b** outputs the beacon signal received by the antenna section **109** to the direction and position estimation section **104b** through the data bus section **107b**.

The direction and position estimation section **104b** inputs the beacon signal outputted by the wireless section **110b** through the data bus section **107b**. The direction and position estimation section **104b** derives direction and position information of the access point which transmits the beacon signal from directivity pattern information of the phased array antennas and a signal strength or intensity and phase information of the beacon signal respectively in directivity patterns.

Especially when a direction of the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** which transmits the beacon signal is estimated, the direction and position estimation section **104b** can derive the direction by estimating an arrival direction and distance using a known MUSIC method.

The MUSIC method (Multiple Signal Classification) method is an algorithm that measures directions of a plurality of radio waves arriving at the same time at the plurality of antennas such as the phased array antennas. Specifically, in the MUSIC method, are initially derived characteristic values of a correlation matrix obtained from receiving signals received by the plurality of antennas. The derived characteristic values are divided into signal characteristic values and noise characteristic values depending on wave numbers of the beacon signals transmitted from the access points and a noise

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characteristic vector corresponding to the noise characteristic value is derived. Then, in the MUSIC method, an angle spectrum is derived in accordance with the noise characteristic vector. A parallel average of the derived angle spectrum is carried out to derive an MUSIC spectrum. Then, in the MUSIC method, a desired arrival direction of the beacon signal is estimated from the derived MUSIC spectrum.

The direction and position estimation section **104b** stores the derived direction and position information of any of the access points **301** to **303** in the storage section **106b** through the data bus section **107b**. A detail of the derivation of a position (a distance) of the direction and position information will be described below.

Since operations of the MPU section **105b**, the storage section **106b** and the gyro-sensor **108** are the same as the operations of the MPU section **105a**, the storage section **106a** and the gyro-sensor **108** of the above-described second exemplary embodiment, an explanation of the operations will be omitted.

FIG. **10** shows that the access point **301** is detected in the communication area where directivity **109aa** of the phased array antennas of the antenna section **109** is formed.

Similarly, FIG. **10** shows that the access point **302** is detected in the communication area where directivity **109bb** of the phased array antennas of the antenna section **109** is formed.

Similarly, FIG. **10** shows that the access point **303** is detected in the communication area where directivity **109cc** of the phased array antennas of the antenna section **109** is formed.

Now, an operation of the wireless communication device **100b** will be described by referring to FIG. **11**. FIG. **11** is a flowchart for explaining the operation of the wireless communication device **100b** of the third exemplary embodiment. The wireless communication **100b** is supposed to form the directivity in a prescribed direction by the phased array antennas of the antenna section **109** before the operation of the flowchart shown in FIG. **11**.

In FIG. **11**, the wireless section **110b** initializes the number of the frequency channel in a millimeter wave frequency band (**S301**). Namely, the wireless section **110a** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band capable of transmission and reception of the wireless communication device **100b** to the channel **1**. Information that the frequency channel is set to the channel **1** is stored in the storage section **106b**.

The wireless section **110b** measures a received signal strength indication located in the channel **1** in the millimeter wave frequency band (**S302**). When the measured received signal strength indication exceeds a prescribed value (**S303**, YES), the wireless section **110b** moves to an operation for establishing a synchronization of the beacon signal (**S304**) to detect a preamble of the beacon signal and establishes the synchronization of the beacon signal (**S304**). After the wireless section **110b** establishes the synchronization of the beacon signal, the wireless section **110b** receives the beacon signal and outputs the beacon signal to the direction and position estimation section **104b**. On the other hand, when the measured received signal strength indication is lower than the prescribed value (**S303**, NO), the wireless section **110a** advances to step **S306** to store only the information of the received signal strength indication in the storage section **106b**.

The direction and position estimation section **104b** inputs the beacon signal outputted by the wireless section **110b**. The direction and position estimation section **104b** demodulates a data area of the beacon signal in accordance with information

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of a header area of the inputted beacon signal. Further, the direction and position estimation section **104b** derives the received signal strength indication and a received SN ratio of the beacon signal in accordance with data of the demodulated data area (**S305**). Further, the direction and position estimation section **104b** extracts identification number information of the access point included in the header area of the beacon signal. In the identification number information, MAC addresses, an SSID or an ESSID or the like of the access points **301** to **303** are respectively included.

The direction and position estimation section **104b** coordinates the extracted identification number information of the access points with the information of the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signal derived in the step **S305** and stores the information in the storage section **106b** (**S306**).

Then, the wireless section **110b** changes the frequency channel now set in the millimeter wave frequency band from the channel **1** to the channel **2** (**S307**). After that, the wireless communication device **100b** repeats the above-described operations of the step **S302** to the step **S206** in all the frequency channels capable of transmission and reception (**S308**). For instance, when the frequency channel set at present is not the channel **2** which is a maximum channel number (**S308**, YES), the wireless communication device **100b** sets the frequency channel in the millimeter wave frequency band to the channel **2**. Further, the wireless communication device **100b** detects whether or not the access points are respectively located in the communication areas of the directivities **109aa** to **109cc** formed by the phased array antennas of the antenna section **109**.

As mentioned above, in the storage section **106b**, below-described data is respectively stored correspondingly to the frequency channels and the directivities **109aa** to **109cc** of the antenna section **109**. In the storage section **106b**, the data of the received signal strength indication and the received SN ratio of the beacon signals received by the antenna **109a** to **109c** and the identification number information of the access points are respectively stored.

The direction and position estimation section **104b** derives the direction and position information of the access points **301** to **303** respectively in accordance with the data stored in the storage section **106b**, specifically, the received SN ratio (**S309**).

The direction and estimation section **104b** can derive the directions of the access points **301** to **303** of the direction and position information with respect to the wireless communication device **100b** by applying the above-described MUSIC method. For instance, when the beacon signal is received from the access point **301**, direction information of the access point **301** is, as shown in FIG. **10**, derived in accordance with the directivity of the antenna section **109** and angle information derived in accordance with the MUSIC method. Direction information of other access points **302** and **303** is similarly derived even when the beacon signals are respectively received.

Further, distance information (position information) of the wireless communication device **100a** and the access points **301** to **303** respectively in the direction and position information is determined in accordance with a propagated distance of the beacon signal derived in accordance with the received SN ratio stored in the storage section **106b** in the step **S210**.

Accordingly, the wireless communication device **100b** of the third exemplary embodiment can derive the position and direction information to the access points **301** to **303** which are targets for communication via a simple configuration by using the millimeter wave frequency band like the above-

described wireless communication devices **100** and **100a**. Further, the wireless communication device **100b** can simply realize a communication with the desired access points **301** to **303** in the prescribed direction with the high and narrow directivity and can effectively reduce a communication interference with the desired access points **301** to **303**.

In the third exemplary embodiment, when the direction and position estimation section **104b** estimates the direction of the access point, the direction and position estimation section **104b** may refer to angle information detected by the gyro-sensor **108** to derive the direction of the access point in place of using the MUSIC method. In this case, the gyro-sensor **108** detects the angle information corresponding to a holding state of a user who holds the wireless communication device **100b** and outputs the detected angle information respectively to the direction and position estimation section **104b** and the storage section **106b** through the data bus section **107b**.

The various kinds of exemplary embodiments are described above by referring to the attached drawings, however, it is to be understood that the wireless communication device of the present invention is not limited to such examples. It is to be understood that a person with ordinary skill in the art may hit upon various kinds of changed examples or modified examples within a category described in claims. Thus, it is to be also understood that they belong to a technical range of the present invention. Further, the present invention is also established as a method by which the wireless communication devices of the exemplary embodiments are respectively operated.

In the above-described exemplary embodiment, the wireless communication devices **100**, **100a** and **100c** respectively derive the direction and position information of the access points for each of the frequency channels of the millimeter wave frequency band capable of transmission and reception. Further, in the above-described exemplary embodiment, as the frequency channels, the two frequency channels of the channel **1** and the channel **2** are used.

In the above-described exemplary embodiments, the icons of the access points corresponding to the direction and position information may be displayed on the display section by using the direction and position information which shows a short distance from the wireless communication device in the direction and position information derived for each of the frequency channels.

Otherwise, in the above-described exemplary embodiments, the icons of the access points corresponding to the direction and position information may be displayed on the display section by using the direction and position information which shows a long distance from the wireless communication device in the direction and position information derived for each of the frequency channels.

Further, the wireless communication device may average the direction and position information derived respectively for the frequency channels and may display the icons of the access points corresponding to the direction and position information on the display section in accordance with the averaged direction and position information. In this case, in order to obtain a high estimation accuracy of the direction and position information of the access points, the icons of the access points are preferably displayed on the display section in accordance with the direction and position information obtained by averaging the direction and position information derived respectively for the frequency channels.

This application is based on Japanese Patent Application (Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-222765) filed on Sep. 30, 2010 and the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention is available as the wireless communication device which derives the position and direction information of a communication device to be communicated with, which is a target for communication via a simple configuration to realize a communication with a desired communication device to be communicated with and effectively reduces a communication interference with the desired communication device to be communicated with. The wireless communication device of the present invention is mounted on, for instance, a smart phone, a mobile terminal, a mobile telephone, a tablet, a portable game machine, a note PC, etc. and available as a device.

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS AND SIGNS

100, 100a, 100b . . . wireless communication device
101, 101a, 101b . . . display section
102, 109 . . . antenna section
102a, 102b, 102c, 102d . . . directional antenna
109a, 109b, 109c . . . antenna
102aa, 102bb, 102cc, 102dd, 102ee, 102ff, 109aa, 109bb, 109cc . . . directivity
103, 103a, 103b . . . antenna control section
104, 104a, 104b . . . direction and position estimation section
105, 105a, 105b . . . MPU section
106, 106a, 106b . . . storage section
107, 107a, 107b . . . data bus section
108 . . . gyro-sensor
109d, 109e, 109f . . . phase control section
300, 301a, 301b, 301c . . . icon
301, 302, 303 . . . access point

The invention claimed is:

1. A wireless communication device for transmitting and receiving a signal by wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, the wireless communication device comprising:

one or more antennas having directivities in a plurality of different directions;

an antenna controller adapted to select and form a directivity in a prescribed direction among the plurality of directivities for the one or more antennas;

a direction and position estimator adapted to estimate direction and position information of a target wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target of the wireless communication, in accordance with a reception signal received by the one or more antennas having the selected and formed directivity; and
a display adapted to display the estimated direction and position information of the target wireless communication device,

wherein the one or more antennas receive a specific information signal including identification information of the target wireless communication device transmitted from the target wireless communication device, and

wherein the direction and position estimator derives a received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal from the received specific information signal, and estimates position information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device based on the received signal SN ratio.

2. The wireless communication device according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of antennas are used as the one or more antennas, and the plurality of antennas have the directivities respectively in the plurality of different directions; and

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wherein the antenna controller switches between the plurality of antennas to select and form the directivity.

3. The wireless communication device according to claim 1, wherein the one or more antennas include one or more phase adjusters that adjust phases of reception signals respectively received by the one or more antennas; and

wherein the antenna controller sets, for the one or more phase adjusters, phase differences of prescribed quantities between transmission signals respectively transmitted from the one or more antennas.

4. The wireless communication device according to claim 1,

wherein when a value of received signal strength of a frequency channel in receiving the specific information signal exceeds a prescribed value, the direction and position estimator estimates the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device relative to the wireless communication device.

5. The wireless communication device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a storage configured to store the direction and position information estimated by the direction and position estimator,

wherein the direction and position estimator derives the value of received signal strength and the received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal from the received specific information signal, and stores the derived value of received signal strength, the received signal SN ratio, and the identification information of the target wireless communication device in the storage.

6. The wireless communication device according to claim 5, wherein the direction and position estimator switches from the frequency channel to a second frequency channel, and when a value of received signal strength of the second frequency channel exceeds the prescribed value, the direction and position estimator estimates the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device relative to the wireless communication device.

7. A wireless communication device for transmitting and receiving a signal by wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, the wireless communication device comprising:

one or more antennas each having a directivity in a prescribed direction;

a gyro-sensor adapted to detect angle information corresponding to a position/orientation change of the wireless communication device;

a direction and position estimator adapted to estimate direction and position information of a target wireless communication device to be communicated with, which is a target of the wireless communication, in accordance with a reception signal received by the one or more antennas and the angle information; and

a display adapted to display the estimated direction and position information of the target wireless communication device,

wherein the one or more antennas receive a specific information signal including identification information of the target wireless communication device transmitted from the target wireless communication device, and

wherein the direction and position estimator derives a received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal from the received specific information signal, and estimates position information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device based on the received signal SN ratio.

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8. The wireless communication device according to claim 7,

wherein when a value of received signal strength of a frequency channel in receiving the specific information signal exceeds a prescribed value, the direction and position estimator estimates the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device relative to the wireless communication device.

9. A wireless communication method for transmitting and receiving a signal by wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, through one or more antennas having directivities in a plurality of different directions, the wireless communication method comprising:

a step of selecting and forming a directivity in a prescribed direction among the plurality of directivities for the one or more antennas;

a step of receiving, with the one or more antennas, a specific information signal including identification information of a target wireless communication device transmitted from the target wireless communication device, and

a step of deriving a received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal from the received specific information signal;

a step of estimating direction information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device, in accordance with a reception signal received by the one or more antennas having the selected and formed directivity;

a step of estimating position information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device based on the received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal; and

a step of displaying the estimated direction and position information of the target wireless communication device.

10. A wireless communication method for transmitting and receiving a signal by wireless communication using a millimeter wave frequency band, through one or more antennas each having a directivity in a prescribed direction, the wireless communication method comprising:

a step of detecting angle information corresponding to a position/orientation change of the wireless communication device;

a step of receiving, with the one or more antennas, a specific information signal including identification information of a target wireless communication device transmitted from the target wireless communication device, and

a step of deriving a received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal from the received specific information signal;

a step of estimating direction information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device, in accordance with a reception signal received by the one or more antennas and the angle information;

a step of estimating position information out of the direction and position information of the target wireless communication device based on the received signal SN ratio of the specific information signal; and

a step of displaying the estimated direction and position information of the target wireless communication device.